

Description of Scenic, Historic, and Back Country Byways in Idaho

December 20, 1999

Bear Lake - Caribou Scenic Byway *: The route begins at the Utah state line and follows US 89 northerly to a junction with US 30 at Montpelier, thence northerly along US 30 to a junction with SH-34 at Soda Springs, thence northerly and easterly along SH-34 to the Wyoming state line. This route offers travelers a panoramic view of Bear Lake and the Bear River Valley, follows a portion of the Oregon Trail, and offers panoramic views of the Blackfoot Reservoir and Grays Lake; 111.3 miles.

City of Rocks Back Country Byway: This route begins at Oakley and follows a county road southeasterly through the City of Rocks National Reserve, thence northeasterly from Almo to Elba, finally following SH-77 to Albion. This route offers travelers views along the Kelton Road of the Oregon Trail and Hudspeth's Cutoff of the California Trail, as well as beautiful vistas of the City of Rocks National Reserve; 49 miles.

Gold Rush Historic Byway: This route begins at the junction of US 12 and follows SH-11 through the towns of Greer, Weippe, and Pierce to its end at Headquarters. This route offers travelers great views of the Clearwater River and the Weippe Prairie and wanders past historic sites of the gold rush era of the mid-to-late 1800's; 42.5 miles.

Hells Canyon Scenic Byway: The route begins in Oregon and continues from the state line following the Snake River to the Hells Canyon Dam. This byway offers travelers views of the deepest canyon in North America; 22 miles.

Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway: The route begins at the junction of I-90 and follows SH-97 southerly along the eastern edge of Lake Coeur d'Alene to a junction with SH-3. This route offers travelers picturesque views of Lake Coeur d'Alene; 35.8 miles.

Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway: This route begins at SH-28 in Tendoy and follows a loop to Lemhi Pass at the Continental Divide and back to Tendoy. The byway offers majestic views of the Beaverhead and Bitterroot Mountains and traverses a portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail; 35 miles.

Mesa Falls Scenic Byway: This route begins on SH-47 at Ashton, and follows a northeasterly path to Bear Gulch Ski Area, thence northwesterly along Forest Service Route 294 to a junction with US 20. This route offers travelers a scenic drive along the Falls River and past Upper and Lower Mesa Falls; 28.7 miles.

Northwest Passage Scenic Byway: Formerly called Clearwater Canyons Scenic Byway, this route begins at the junction of US 95 at Spalding and follows US 12 easterly along the Clearwater River and Lochsa River to the Montana state line at Lolo Pass. A branch follows a southerly route along the South Fork of the Clearwater River along SH-13 beginning at Kooskia, thence travels southerly to a junction with US 95 at Grangeville. This route offers travelers the passage that Lewis and Clark first discovered in their trek west in the early 1800's; 191.1 miles.

Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway: This route begins at the junction of SH-78 in Grandview and follows a county road around the southern rim of the Owyhee Mountain range to the Oregon state line. The byway offers travelers views of high desert country and the Owyhee Mountains; 92 miles.

Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage: This route begins on US 2 at the Washington state line and follows US 2 to the Sandpoint City Beach area. The passage offers travelers views of the Priest River Historic District, where historic log drives occurred, views of beautiful Pend Oreille River with its recreation areas, and along Kalispel Indian historic and cultural areas.

Payette River Scenic Byway: The route begins at the junction of US 95 at New Meadows and follows SH-55 southerly to a junction with SH-44 in Eagle. This route offers travelers views of mountain forests, Payette Lake, Cascade Reservoir, and the white water rapids of the Payette River; 117.7 miles.

Pend Oreille Scenic Byway: The route begins at the junction of US 95 north of Sandpoint and follows SH-200 easterly to the Montana state line. This route offers travelers a panoramic view of the northern rim of Lake Pend Oreille and the Cabinet Gorge; 33.4 miles.

Pioneer Historic Byway *: The route begins at the Utah state line and follows US 91 northerly to a junction with SH-34, thence northerly to US 30/SH-34, thence easterly to Soda Springs, and thence northerly on SH-34 to the Wyoming state line. This route passes through early Mormon settlements, pioneer trails, and numerous historic points of interest; 127.0 miles.

Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway: The route begins at Boise on SH-21 and follows a route northeasterly to a junction with SH-75 at Stanley. This route follows a portion of the Boise River, the South Fork of the Payette River and smaller creeks. It passes through heavily timbered country and high mountain valleys and offers beautiful views of the Sawtooth Mountains; 130.9 miles.

Salmon River Scenic Byway: The route begins at Stanley at the junction of SH-21 and follows SH-75 northeasterly to Challis and US 93 northerly to the Montana state line. This route offers travelers views of the main fork of the Salmon River from near its headwaters as well as views of the White Cloud, Lemhi, and Bitterroot mountains and the Lost River; 161.7 miles.

Sawtooth Scenic Byway: The route begins at Shoshone and follows a route northerly along SH-75 to a junction with SH-21 at Stanley. This route follows the Wood River through agricultural land to the resort towns of Ketchum and Sun Valley and through the forested Wood River Valley to Galena Summit. It offers travelers views of the headwaters of the Salmon River through its high mountain valley; 115.7 miles.

Teton Scenic Byway: This route begins at Swan Valley and follows SH-31 northeasterly to a junction with SH-33 at Victor, thence northerly to a junction with SH-32, thence northerly and westerly to a junction with SH-47, thence westerly to a junction with US 20 at Ashton. The route offers travelers panoramic views of the Snake River Valley, the western slope of the Tetons and the Falls River; 68.9 miles.

Thousand Springs Scenic Byway: The route begins at a junction of I-84 at Bliss and follows a route along US 30 southeasterly through the beautiful Hagerman Valley and through the city of Twin Falls to a connection with SH-50, thence northerly to a junction with I-84. A third leg runs along US 93 Spur from downtown Twin Falls at a junction with US 30 and US 93 northerly across the Perrine Bridge and the Snake River Canyon to a junction with I-84. This route offers travelers views of the Snake River, the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, numerous fish hatcheries, Shoshone Falls as well as the Thousand Springs; 67.8 miles.

White Pine Scenic Byway: The route begins at the junction of I-90 west of the Old Mission at Cataldo and follows SH-3 southerly to the junction of SH-6, thence southwesterly to a junction with US 95 at Potlatch. This route provides panoramic views of farm land, extensive forests, rivers, and mountains, and the largest stand of White Pine trees in North America; 82.8 miles.

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway: The route begins at the junction of SH-55 at Banks and follows Old State Highway 17 to Crouch and then continues easterly to Lowman and the junction of SH-21. This route offers travelers views of the pristine whitewater rapids of the South Fork of the Payette River and an area rich with eagles, osprey, elk, deer, and great trout fishing; 33.0 miles.

*These byways overlap 55.8 miles from Soda Springs on SH-34 to the Wyoming state line.